Letters from M.P s. Received in Prime Minister's Office

6334. SHRI MOHAMMED AFZAL alias MEEM AFZAL: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) what is the number of letters written by the Members of Parliament to him during the period from 1st April, 1994 to 31st March, 1995;

(b) what is the number of letters acknowledged out of them;

(c) what is the number of letters in respect of which final replies were sent; and

(d) what is the break-up of final letters issued containing positive and negative replies respectively?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE PRIME MINISTER'S OFFICE (SHRI BHUVNESH CHATURVEDI): (a) The number of letters received by the Prime Minister from the Members of Parliament during the period from 1.4.94 to 31.3.95 is 9479.

(b) to (d) Most of the letters received from the Members of Parliament were acknowledged by the Prime Minister. While action on most of the letters is required to be taken by the concerned Ministries/Department, there are some letters on which action is to be taken by the Prime Minister's Office. There are also some letters which are of a nature on which no specific action is required. Out of 4499 letters on which Prime Minister's Office was required to take action, final replies have been sent to 3523 letters. This contains 2724 positive replies and 799 negative replies. Other actionable letters were forwarded to the concerned Ministries/Departments for considering the issues raised in the letters and sending suitable replies to the Members of Parliament. Details of such cases are available with the concerned Ministries/ Departments.

Schemes to Promote use of Hindi

6335. SHRI IQBAL SINGH: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Department of Atomic Energy have chalked out any plan to promote the use of Hindi language in its administration and other wings;

(b) if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor; and

(c) what are the various schemes formulated and being implementing by Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE PRIME MINISTER'S OFFICE (SHRI BHUVNESH CHATURVEDI): (a) The Annual Programme brought out by the Department of Official Language is being followed in this Department.

(b) and (c) The Department of Atomic Energy (DAE) has introduced incentive schemes for its officers and employees, for (i) writing original notes and drafts in Hindi, (ii) giving dictation in Hindi, and (iii) doing Hindi typing/stenography work in addition to English typing/ stenography. Besides, organisation of Scientific Seminars, bringing out house magazines/Scientific Journals in Hindi are also being undertaken.

Increase in Pak armed forces

6336. SHRI O.P. KOHLI: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether Pakistan has nearly doubled its manpower in the armed forces in the last six years from five lakh in 1988 to 8.30 lakh in 1994 excluding the reserves;

(b) whether Pakistan is the principal beneficiary of one thousand surface to surface scud missiles left behind by Russians in Afghanistan; and

(c) if so, the steps taken/proposed to be taken to augment the strength of the Indian Army to meet the likely danger from Pakistan to our security?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF DEFENCE (SHRI MALLIKARJUN): (a) Government are aware of the increase in the strength of the Pakistan Army and Para Military Forces since 1988. The figures mentioned in the Question are, however, at variance with the reports available with the Government.

(b) There are no such reports with the Government.

(c) Situation in the region is constantly monitored and all possible steps are taken to maintain appropriate defence preparedness to meet any threat from our potential adversaries.

Provident fund accounts in BEL

6337. SHRI T.A. MOHAMMED SAQHY: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) the details of provident fund accounts in respect of ex-employees of Bharat Electronics Limited, Jalahalli, Bangalore which have not been settled till date;

(b) whether it is a fact that the amount involved has been misappropriated instead of paying to the ex-employees;

(c) what is the amount involved and the details of officials who have got the cheques cleared after issuing in the name of ex-employees;

(d) the amount of PF not yet claimed and lying with B.E. Limited; and

(e) what action Government propose to take to settle the accounts and pay the amount to the ex-employees and fix responsibility on the officials who have misappropriated the amount?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF DEFENCE (SHRI MALLIKARJUN): (a) The number of accounts pending settlement in Bharat Electronics Limited, Jalahalli, Bangalore is 985 amounting to Rs. 6,52,233/-

(b) No, Sir.

(c) Does not arise in view of (b) above.

(d) The total amount of provident fund not yet claimed and lying with BEL (all units) is Rs. 27,16,113/-

(e) The accounts of the ex-employees will be settled and paid to them as soon as they comply with the formalities prescribed under the Provident Fund Scheme. As no case of misappropriation has come to notice, the question of fixing responsibility does not arise.

Army officials killed in Kokarnag

6338. SHRI VIREN J. SHAH: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether a number of Army officers and jawans have been killed in an encounter between the Army and militants in Kokarnag, about 80 kms. from Srinagar (J&K State) as reported in the Pioneer of October 21, 1994;

(b) if so, what are the facts and details in this regard;

(c) what are the names and particulars of Army officers and jawans who have been killed and injured in the encounter with militants;

(d) what precautionary measures are being taken to check such mishaps to save the valuable lives of Army officers and jawans;

(e) what are the details of compensation paid or to be paid to the Army officers and jawans who have been killed/injured; and

(f) whether Government have made any additional ex-gratia payment other than the usual benefits to the victims of such encounters in Jammu and Kashmir State and if so, what are the details in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF DEFENCE (SHRI MALLIKARJUN): (a) to (c) On 9th October, 1994 an encounter took place at